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January 11, 1991

Mr. Joseph Connarton
City Clerk
City Hall
795 Massachusetts Avenue
Cambridge, MA 02139

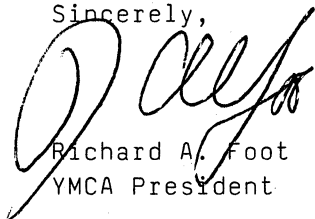
Dear Mr. Connarton,

The Cambridge Family YMCA is granting permission to the Cambridge Ad Hoc Banner Committee to suspend a banner from the cable across Massachusetts Avenue which is tied to the north elevation of the YMCA building at 820 Massachusetts Avenue.

This permission is granted contingent on the Ad Hoc Committee providing the YMCA with a copy of the insurance certificate and municipal permit associated with the project. Such copies are to be given to the YMCA prior to the erection of the banner.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Richard A. Foot
YMCA President

THIS AGENCY IS
SUPPORTED BY



United Way

The Cambridge Ad Hoc Banner Committee
68 Pearl St.
Cambridge, MA 02139
19 December 1990

The Honorable Alice Wolf
City Hall
Cambridge, MA 02139

Dear Mayor Wolf,

As Christmas nears, we find hundreds of thousands of our neighbors, friends and loved ones in the Armed Forces threatened with maiming and death by the actions of a president who has seemingly disregarded our Constitution.

We are a group of Cambridge citizens who, although we condemn Saddam Hussein's invasion of Kuwait and support economic sanctions on Iraq, strongly oppose the unconstitutional war which we seem to be headed toward.

Given these extraordinary and urgent circumstances we feel it is necessary for communities across the country to pull together as they seldom do in order to express opposition to the President's current course of action. We also feel that our traditionally outspoken City of Cambridge has a leading role to play in this historic endeavor.

We therefore do hereby inform you of our intention to present you with a petition during the coming week of anti-war activity, in which we request the City's permission to secure a banner across Massachusetts Avenue reading:

NO WAR
BRING THE TROOPS HOME

We confidently look forward to the city's cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,

Ralph Lopez, coordinator
Cambridge Ad Hoc Banner Committee
617-641-2318

CITY HALL
POST OFFICE
10 DAYS
BOND?



City of Cambridge

CORRECTED ORDER
Communication #26
IN CITY COUNCIL

January 7, 1991

ORDERED:

That, in accordance with the provisions of an ordinance relative to placing and maintaining signs, the Commissioner of Public Works be and hereby is authorized to grant a permit to Cambridge Ad Hoc Banner Committee for the erection of a banner across Massachusetts Avenue, from 795 to 820 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge, MA.

Provided that, before erecting the above named banner the petitioner shall obtain a permit from the Inspectional Services Department and file with the City Clerk a satisfactory bond in the sum of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars, conditioned to save harmless the City of Cambridge from all claims for damages arising from the installation, maintenance and use of said banner.

In City Council January 7, 1991.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of seven members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

Joseph E. Connarton
Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

**COUNCILLORS SULLIVAN AND TOOMEY REQUESTED TO BE RECORDED
IN THE NEGATIVE ON THIS MATTER.**



City of Cambridge

Communication #26

IN CITY COUNCIL

January 7, 1991

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Provided that, before erecting the above named banner the petitioner shall obtain a permit from the Inspectional Services Department and file with the City Clerk a satisfactory bond in the sum of Two Thousand (\$2,000.00) Dollars, conditioned to save harmless the City of Cambridge from all claims for damages arising from the installation, maintenance and use of said banner.

In City Council January 7, 1991.
Adopted by the affirmative vote of nine members.
Attest:- Joseph E. Connarton, City Clerk.

A true copy;

ATTEST:-

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joseph E. Connarton", is written over the printed name.

Joseph E. Connarton
City Clerk

Jan. 3, 1990

CAMBRIDGE AD HOC BANNER COMMITTEE
68 Pearl St., Cambridge, MA

PETITION TO THE HONORABLE MAYOR ALICE WOLF AND THE CAMBRIDGE
CITY COUNCIL

Whereas we the undersigned do condemn Iraq's invasion of Kuwait and,

Whereas we support the economic sanctions placed on Iraq in order to
compell that nation to withdraw from Kuwait,

We also strongly oppose the launching of war on that nation outside the
framework clearly specified by the U.S. Constitution, the Law of the Land, and
demand the President and Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces diligently
pursue all avenues for a peaceful solution.

We therefore do petition the Honorable Alice Wolf, Mayor of the City of
Cambridge, and the Cambridge City Council to allow that a banner be secured
across Massachusetts Avenue reading:

NO WAR
BRING THE TROOPS HOME

as a measure expressing opposition to the unnecessary sacrifice of American lives
in the Middle East.

SIGNED AND IN SUPPORT OF THIS PETITION:

Ralph Lopez, Pearl St.
David Goode, Perry St.
Victoria Hickey, University Ave.
Jerry Marquez, Ware St.
Robert Fischelis, Ware St.
Jim Henle, Chalk St.
Olivia Abelson, Washington Ave.
Lester Lee (veteran)

and others.

WHY BLOOD FOR OIL IS THE ISSUE

By Ralph Lopez

As the first moonless night in January approaches, the date chosen as the next opportune moment for a U.S. attack on Iraq to begin, the liberal community is divided as it has not been in awhile over what to do and why. Many who would be unalterably opposed to a similar action against Nicaragua or any other Latin American country are at a loss when it comes to Saddam Hussein. It seems that only the most hardcore pacifist could fail to see that it is necessary to stop him, and to stop him now.

A protest movement has arisen, but is only just beginning to be heard. What are its reasons for opposing a quick offensive against this brutal dictator? Why does it prefer sanctions to war? In a nutshell, we believe the American public has been misled by an invalid historical parallel, and by a media more inclined to jingoism than critical thinking.

The Administration has taken pains to liken Saddam to Adolf Hitler. Had Hitler's aggression been swiftly checked he might never have had the chance to wreak the havoc that he did. The problem with this parallel is that it differs from the present situation in a number of important ways. The mainstream media, not especially known in recent times for throwing hardball questions at presidents, is failing us even more dismally in this life-and-death crisis by not pointing out a few simple facts:

- Unlike Hitler's invasion of Poland, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait was not entirely unprovoked. Kuwait had ignored repeated warnings to stop "slant drilling" into an Iraqi oil reserve at Rumailah, a region where the tip of a long, cigar-shaped reserve just touches the Kuwaiti border.
- There are elements of societal conflict within this crisis which bear no resemblance to WWII Europe. Many young, underclass Arabs throughout the Middle East admire Saddam for his anti-U.S. stance. Were war with the U.S. to begin, the stability of some governments with whom we are allied could become a question.
- Saddam lacks Hitler's racist ideology, in which his nation constitutes a superior race. Rather, by facing-off with the West, Saddam is bidding for leadership of the fractious but culturally cohesive Arab world.
- Bush's portrayal of Saddam as a madman who uses chemical weapons on his own people is inconsistent. Bush knew of this behavior when Iraq was still considered an ally. Shipments of American arms continued, and the U.S. abstained from condemning Iraq in the U.N.

As for the possibility that Saddam might acquire a nuclear bomb, even such traditional hawks as Sen. Sam Nunn of the Armed Services Subcommittee, two former Joint Chiefs of staff and a former head of the National Security Council have failed to be impressed. When such weighty figures join to say this is no reason to rush to the offensive, we should listen.

If the "Adolf Hitler" analogy is so full of holes, how do we explain such a massive military mobilization? This is an important question because an essential part of the peace movement is understanding the possible reasons for our government's actions. In this case two strong possibilities exist.

The first relates to the "military-industrial complex" of which President

Eisenhower warned us as he left office, and of the need it has for enemies with which to justify our gigantic arms industry. The nurturing of the Iraqi threat to replace the now-defunct Russian one fits the former five-star general's predictions with uncanny precision.

The second explanation needs no argument because the administration has admitted as much. By citing "jobs" as at stake in the crisis, Secretary of State James Baker brought what we are willing to sacrifice our sons and daughters for to a new low. With Kuwait removed as a player in the OPEC cartel, Saddam indeed is in a position to cause the price of oil to rise. This could send shock waves through the industrial economies which would require painful adjustments. But is this reason enough to commit U.S. troops to attack on behalf of governments which are not even democracies?

The position of the peace movement is no. No cause so short on principle and so long on economic gain justifies the sacrifice of American soldiers. These are not abstract television good guys, these are our sons, daughters, wives, husbands, police officers, students and neighbors who bleed real blood and feel real pain. The many veterans in our movement tell us that the horror of war is unimaginable.

The Middle East crisis bears all the hallmarks of another fratricidal Arab quarrel which cannot be fixed with a "big stick". It is ironic that a shooting war with the U.S. might be the one thing which could bring closer together such bitter enemies as Iraq and Iran. The Arab saying is: "my brother against my cousin, my cousin against the foreigner." It is also ironic that the president who was not moved to strong sanctions by the massacre in Tainnenmen Square or by American-funded death squad rape and torture in El Salvador is moved by reports of rape and torture in Kuwait, albeit on a far lesser scale. "We must not act hastily" were the president's words after Tainnenmen Square. This sense of restraint now seems to escape him.

History offers us a final thought: the decline of the Roman Empire coincided with the transformation of its army from citizen-soldiers to career mercenaries. The Empire had over-extended itself and entered into a period of general decadence and social decline. A nation's strength is not its legions or tanks; a nation's strength is its heart and soul. By openly exchanging blood for oil, we may inflict damage to the heart of our nation from which we may never recover.

(Ralph Lopez is on the Board of Cambridge SANE/Freeze, a peace organization based in Cambridge, Mass.)

26.

H-1 banner.
Comm. from Ralph Lopez, Coordinator Cambridge
Ad Hock Banner Committee, in opposition to
the unconstitutional war with Iraq.

In City Council,

January 7, 1991

*Order adapted
subject to approval
of alution.*

*Verble approval from
City Manager received
1/11/91*

*YMCA approval received
1/11/91*

*Petitioner & Dept concerned
sent corrected order 1/15/91*